

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs 67 and 108-109 as follows:

[0067] Fig. 8 illustrates one embodiment in which a data meta-manager service 38 interfaces with a plurality of data storage subsystems ~~90~~ 88 to enable the data to be pre-conditioned to be transported on the network 14. Specifically, in this embodiment, a data set to be transferred across the network is distributed to multiple storage subsystems ~~90~~ 88, each of which may spread the data across multiple discs or other storage resources ~~92~~ 89, so that portions of the data may be read from multiple sources simultaneously, passed to an optical switch 28 having a high speed access to the scheduled resource, and multiplexed onto the switched underlay network. By preconditioning the data, e.g. by moving the data from one storage subsystem to a plurality of storage subsystems that may be used simultaneously, the data may be provided to be transferred at a much higher rate over the network. The transfers between the storage subsystems during the pre-conditioning phase may take place using slower speed links, e.g. 1 Gbps links between the storage subsystems. By pre-conditioning the data for transfer, slower rate data sources may be used to fill higher rate transport resources to thereby achieve a high effective data transfer rate of a target dataset. This becomes increasingly important when several optical lambdas are aggregated and the discrepancy between the data output rate available from one of the storage subsystems and the data transfer rate on the network increases.

[0108] The data meta-manager service 38 may also include one or more software modules to enable it to participate in pre-conditioning data for transfer on the network. For example, as shown in Fig. 10, the data meta-manger service 38 may include a dataset location module 93 configured to contain information relating to the location of data to be transferred on the network, a network topology module 94 configured to contain information relating to the network topology over which the data will be transferred, and a transfer schedule module 95 configured to maintain information about scheduled transfers on the network. The data meta-manager service may also include a dataset location module 96 containing information no the

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location of the data that will be transferred, and a storage topology module 96 99 containing information about available storage systems that may be used to ~~provide information about storage systems that may be used to~~ precondition data to be transferred on the network.